

STATE BOARD MEETING DATE

January 26, 2009

SUBJECT: Consideration of Review Case No. C-2008-033R, Eric M. Casper

SUBMITTED BY: Charles Easaw, Chief Investigator, Investigative Unit, State Board of Education

MANAGEMENT TEAM REVIEW: January 8, 2009

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Eric M. Casper applied for a renewal of his teaching certificate on May 5, 2008.

In his statement, Mr. Casper wrote that the State Bar of Arizona (“State Bar”) suspended his license on February 9, 2007, for six months and one day. Mr. Casper stated that his license was suspended after he inadequately handled the transfer of a complicated tax bankruptcy case for a client. Subsequently, an Order of Probable Cause was entered. The State Bar found that Mr. Casper’s actions caused injury or potential injury to the legal system and the credibility and reputation of the legal profession. The suspension was related to Mr. Casper’s failure to comply with the terms of his probation entered in connection with an order of informal reprimand entered against Mr. Casper on September 6, 2005.

On July 30, 2008, the Supreme Court of Arizona suspended Mr. Casper’s license for an additional six months and one day, and ordered him to pay restitution of \$3,000.00 to a former client. It determined that Mr. Casper inadequately handled the transfer of a case and failed to answer the State Bar complaint in the matter.

In May, 2006, Mr. Casper received a Provisional Secondary Education certificate. He has been employed with the Glendale Union High School District since 2007.

He was notified by the Investigative Unit on June 16, 2008, that his application required a review by the Professional Practices Advisory Committee (the “PPAC”) of the State Board of Education (“State Board”).

On November 13, 2008, the PPAC conducted a review of Mr. Casper’s application for certification and recommended that the State Board issue renewal of certification. The PPAC made the recommendation based on the following:

Aggravating factors:

- The nature of abandonment of clients.
- The nature of abandonment of his professional responsibilities.

Mitigating factors:

- Mr. Casper’s candor before the PPAC
- Letters of recommendation submitted on Mr. Casper’s behalf from administrative professionals and students.
- Testimony of Scott A. Holcomb, a lawyer and former colleague, on behalf of Mr. Casper.

BOARD ACTION REQUESTED: ☐ INFORMATION ☒ ACTION/DESCRIBED
BELOW:

That the Board accepts the findings of fact, conclusions of law and recommendation of the PPAC and **grant Mr. Casper's** application for renewal of certification.

ATTACHMENTS: YES ☒ NO ☐